

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6113

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3122

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: SECDEF ATTENDANCE AT DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING

1. SYG LUNS CALLED ME THIS MORNING. HE SAID THAT SIR PETER HILL-NORTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, HAD CALLED HIM VERY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE NEWS REPORTS THAT SECDEF WAS NOT COMING TO THE DPC, AND THAT HE CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CANNOT FIND SOME WAY TO ATTEND THE DPC. APPARENTLY SIR PETER HILL-NORTON INDICATED TO LUNS THAT HE, SIR PETER, FELT THAT THE ARGUMENT USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR SECDEF SCHLESINGER'S NON-ATTENDANCE SEEMED SOFT IN THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THE PRESIDENT WILL ALSO BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY DURING THE PERIOD WHEN SECDEF SCHLESINGER IS IN NORWAY

SIR PETER FEELS THAT THE DPC MINISTERIAL IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE NPG BECAUSE ALL MINISERS ARE PRESENT. THE QUESTION WAS ASKED WHETHER, IF THE DIFFICULTY IS NOT INABILITY TO BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY WHEN THE PRESIDENT IS GONE, BUT RATHER NOT WANTING TO BE AWAY FOR A LONG PERIOD WHEN THE PRESIDENT IS GONE, WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO CANCEL THE

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FIRST PART OF HIS TRIP TO NORWAY, ATTEND THE NPG, THEN COME TO BRUSSELS FOR THE DPC, AND BE GONE ONLY THREE OR FOUR DAYS, JUST AS HE APPARENTLY WILL BE UNDER HIS PRESENT SCHEDULE, OR IF NECESSARY, ATTEND ONLY THE DPC?

2. A SENIOR OFFICIAL IN THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF CALLED THE MISSION TO INQUIRE WHETHER THE US WOULD STILL DESIRE A RESTRICTED SESSION FOR THE DPC MINISTERIAL IF SECDEF WERE NOT GOING TO BE PRESENT. HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT NO OTHER MOD WOULD BE PREPARED TO LEAD, OR PARTICIPATE SIGNIFICANTLY IN, A RESTRICTED SESSION DISCUSSION. HE BELIEVED THAT UNLESS THE US REPRESENTATIVE WAS PREPARED TO LEAD THE DISCUSSION, A RESTRICTED SESSION WOULD FALL FLAT (AS IT HAD DURING THE NAC MINISTERIAL LAST DECEMBER). ACTION REQUESTED: WHETHER US WISHES TO RETAIN A RESTRICTED SESSION.

RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

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